

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims in accordance with the following rewritten claims in clean form. Applicant includes herewith an Attachment for Claim Amendments showing a marked up version of each amended claim.

1. (Amended) A string trimmer comprising:

an elongate shaft;

a cutting head rotatably mounted on one end of the elongate shaft;

at least one cutting member which extends from the cutting head;

a barrier which is capable of being used by an operator to move vegetation

away from a path swept out by the cutting member when it rotates, characterized in that

the barrier is pivotally mounted about a single pivot axis on the string trimmer and, when

the cutting head is rotating in a flat position, is capable of pivoting from a position above

the path swept out by the cutting member to a position below the path swept out by the

cutting member without passing through the path swept out by the cutting member.

2. (Amended) A string trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the axis of

pivot is substantially perpendicular to an axis of rotation of the cutting head when the

cutting head is in a flat cutting position

3. (Amended) A string trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the axis of

pivot of the barrier is substantially perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the cutting

head when the cutting head is in a vertical edge cutting position.

✓ 4. (Amended) A string trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier is capable of pivoting through at least 270°.

✓ 5. (Amended) A string trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier is able to pivot from a first position where it is located on one side of the elongate shaft to a second position where it is located on the other side of the elongate shaft.

6. (Amended) A string trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier has suitable dimensions so that it is capable of surrounding an edge of the path swept out by the cutting member when it is rotating.

7. (Amended) A string trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier is capable of pivoting to a position wherein it projects forward of the string trimmer.

8. (Amended) A string trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier is capable of pivoting to a position where it projects downwardly from the string trimmer.

9. (Amended) A string trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier is capable of pivoting to a positioning in which it projects rearward from the string trimmer.

✓ 10. (Amended) A string trimmer as claimed in claim 1 wherein there is further provided a guard, the barrier being capable of pivoting to a position where it surrounds[the] a rear of the guard.

11. (Amended) A string trimmer as claimed in claim 10, wherein the barrier is pivotally mounted on the guard.

AI 12. (Amended) A string trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is further provided a guard, the barrier being capable of pivoting to a position where the (guard surrounds at least part or all of the barrier)

13. (Amended) A string trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier includes opposite end portions and is pivotally mounted on the string trimmer at its said opposite end portions by pivot mechanisms.

14. (Amended) A string trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier can be latched in a plurality of predetermined angular positions.

15. (Amended) A string trimmer as claimed in claim 14, wherein the barrier can be latched in six predetermined angular positions.

16. (Amended) A string trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier is in the form of a band which is pivotally mounted at each of its ends.

17. (Amended) A string trimmer as claimed in claim 16, where the band curves from one pivot point around to the other pivot point.

18. (Amended) A barrier for use on a string trimmer, comprising:

an elongate shaft;

a cutting head rotatably mounted on one end of the elongate shaft;

at least one cutting member which extends from the cutting head;

the barrier being used by an operator to move vegetation away from a path swept out by the cutting member when it rotates,

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the barrier being pivotally mounted on said string trimmer about a single axis in a manner where it can pivot from a first position above a path swept out by the cutting member to a position where it is below a path swept out by the cutting member without passing through the path swept out by the cutting member when the cutting head is rotating in a flat cutting position.

19. (Amended) A barrier as claimed in claim 16, wherein the barrier is pivotally mounted on a guard of the string trimmer.

20. (Amended) A barrier as claimed in claim 17, wherein the barrier is pivotally mounted on the string trimmer at each of its ends.

21. (Amended) A barrier as claimed in claim 17, wherein the barrier is mounted on the string trimmer in such a manner that it can be latched in a plurality of angular positions in relation to the string trimmer.

22. (Amended) A barrier is claimed in claim 18, wherein the barrier comprises a band pivotally mounted at each of its ends to a guard of the string trimmer.

A2 23. (Amended) A barrier as claimed in claim 22, wherein the band is pivotally coupled at first and second pivot points and wherein the band curves from the first pivot point to the second pivot point.